

## Board of Finance

### Regular Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2014

**Present:** David Richardson, Wayne Durst, Ronald Cabana, Michael Dougherty, Fred Chmura, David Hosmer, Glen Lessig and George McCoy.

**Absent:** Mark Shamber

**Guests:** Deputy Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick, Treasurer Donna Stefanik, First Selectman Allan Walker, Clerk Christine French, Ernest St. Jean and David Fortin

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**2. Seat Alternate if Necessary:** Not necessary for this evening's meeting.

**3. Approve Minutes from the July 15, 2014 Meeting:** George McCoy, seconded by Ronald Cabana, moved to accept the minutes as presented. **Motion passed.**

**4. Approved Board of Selectmen Year End Transfers:** Michael Dougherty explained to the Board that these transfers have been approved by the Board of Selectmen, and now the Board of Selectmen is bringing it to the Board of Finance for approval.

George McCoy asked First Selectman Allan Walker if the Town of Eastford was matching the \$10,000.00 that the Town of Woodstock was giving to the Camp Nahaco Park Commission for upgrades in the park's infrastructure. Mr. Walker explained that he was not sure what the Town of Eastford planned to do, but that he hoped that they would do so. He reminded the Board members that this is what the Camp Nahaco Park Commission had asked for earlier in the budget process.

There were many questions from the Board members about the Transfer Station Hauling Truck that the Selectmen are proposing to purchase. Mr. Walker explained that this truck would be a tri-axel roll off truck. This truck would also be used as a plow truck, and retro fitted with a sander. This truck would be used to haul waste and allow the Town to shop around for the best prices in recyclables. Mr. Walker explained that this truck could be operated by the transfer station personnel, and that there would be no need to hire additional staffing. The purchase price for this truck is approximately \$200,000.00. It would be funded partly by the Highway Department, the STEAP Grant that was awarded for the Transfer Station upgrades, and the \$73,351.72 that the Board of Selectmen are proposing to transfer from last year's budget to a CNR Account.

David Richardson would like to have a report detailing the potential savings that would occur with the purchase of this truck, before it is brought before the tax payers at a Town Meeting.

David Hosmer asked why \$5,000.00 was transferred from the Open Space Land Acquisition Account. He believed that any balance in Open Space Land Acquisition budget was transferred to the account to purchase open space rights. Treasurer Donna Stefanik explained that the Open Space Land Acquisition Commission needs to request that any balance at the end of the fiscal year be put into this account, which they did not this year. The Commission also receives the funds from PA-490 penalties, and there were significant money from this received by the Town this fiscal year, and put into that account.

Fred Chmura, seconded by Glen Lessig motioned to transfer \$10,000.00 towards the existing CNR Account for expansion and drainage of the Town Hall Parking Lot; transfer \$10,000.00 towards a CNR Account for Camp Nahaco Infrastructure upgrades, and \$15,000.00 towards a CNR Account for upgrades to the existing Town Hall HVAC System. **Motioned passed.**

The Board of Finance informed Mr. Walker that they would like more information on how much money the purchase of the truck would save at the Transfer Station before it would vote on allowing this transfer.

#### **5. Old Business – update BOE Union Negotiations, Video Recording Effort.**

Michael Dougherty explained that the negotiation with the Teacher's Union is proceeding slowly. Proposals have been exchanged. Mr. Dougherty believes that the wages and insurance proposals may go to arbitration, and possibly mediation. There will be a meeting with their insurance representative in regards to a health savings account to supplement the self-funded insurance. This would reduce the deductible that is currently being paid.

Wayne Durst said that he has been speaking with John Filchak, at NECOGG about regionalizing the insurance. John Filchak said that this was possible, but that it would be hard to put into effect with the different Union contracts in the different school systems.

**4. Approve Board of Selectmen Year End Transfers, continued:** At this point in the meeting Ms. Stefanik pointed out to the Board that they had not completed the business in item #4 of the agenda.

Ms. Stefanik reminded the Board that the Treasurer's Office was closing out the books for the Fiscal Year 2013/2014. If the Board did not vote on the money for the purchase of the truck, the money would be returned to the General Fund. If the Board of Finance decided to approve the purchase of the truck after the books had been closed for the Fiscal Year, the purchase of the truck would be considered an additional appropriation.

Glen Lessig, seconded by Ronald Cabana made a motion to move the sum of \$73,351.72 into an undesignated CNR account. **Motion passed.**

Ms. Stefanik reminded the Board that it also needed to approve the Intergovernmental transfers. Ms. Stefanik explained that this money has been spent. The transfers were coming from line items that had a balance to cover the line items that were in a deficit.

Wayne Durst, seconded by Ronald Cabana motioned to approve the transfers as presented by the Board of Selectmen. **Motion passed.**

**5. Old Business – update BOE Union Negotiations, Video Recording Effort, cont.**

First Selectman Allan Walker explained that he had been discussing this issue with our information technology company, Savage System. Savage System would donate the equipment and pay the annual website fee in exchange for advertising. Savage System would train someone to edit, upload and burn a cd. Mr. Walker said that he has not spoken to Savage System about all the technical details.

Fred Chmura, seconded by Glen Lessig motioned to request Mr. Walker to continue discussions with Savage System and that the Board of Finance would be the first Board to video tape their meetings. **Motion passed.**

**6. Follow-up – BOE Health Care Funds:** David Richardson believes that the Auditor is not clear on the issue of the Board of Education transferring money from one line item into the Self-Funded Health Insurance account. Ms. Stefanik offered to give him the Auditor's email so that he could ask her his questions.

**7. Citizens Participation:** David Fortin, a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission is glad to see the Town making progress in videotaping meetings. He believed that the Meeting room should be reconfigured so that audience members could be seen on the video tape as well as commission members. He suggested that name tags should be used to identify commission members. He also mentioned that he had belonged to the Transfer Station Committee and that the idea of buying a truck to do the Town's waste hauling has been discussed for a long time.

**8. Correspondence and Announcements:** Quarterly Reports and the Town Clerk receipts for the year were included.

David Richardson commented on the fees that the Transfer Station has generated. Ms. Stefanik credited the new rules that the Board of Selectmen instituted last year.

Ms. Stefanik said that she would email the members information on the Town's bond rating.

**9. Adjournment:** Glen Lessig, seconded by Ronald Cabana motioned to adjourn at 7:45pm. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine G. French  
Clerk